

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00

AID-05 OPIC-03 IO-10 EUR-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01

STR-04 /092 W

----- 052898

P R 062136Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9962

INFO DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: CONTINUING PRESS COVERAGE OF GOH CHANGE AND UB SCANDAL

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 1798, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 5241, DEC 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF THE MELGA

GOVERNMENT CONTINUES

AT A MODERATE PACE WHILE LOPEZ AND UB RECEIVE SCANT ATTEN-

TION. APPARENTLY HIRED JOURNALISTS STILL DEFEND LOPEZ

AND ATTACK UB. DELEGATIONS FROM NICARAGUA AND GUATEMALA

CALLED ON MELGAR MAY5. THE GOH WILL MAINTAIN ITS CUBA

POLICY. THE CUBAN ROLANDO MERUELO MAKES ANOTHER APPEARANCE

IN THE HONDURAN PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. EL DIA OF MAY 5 REPORTS DISSATISFACTION IN THE

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HONDURAN BAR ASSOCIATION (COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS) KWECause

THE MELGAR GOVERNMENT MADE ITS APPOINTMENTS TO THE

JUDICIARY WITHOUT THE CUSTOMARY CLEARANCE BY THE

ASSOCIATION. THE LAWYERS' GROUP IS ALSO UNHAPPY BECAUSE

MANY POSITIONS TRADITIONALLY HELD BY LAWYERS HAVE BEEN FILLED BY PEOPLE WITH NO LEGAL BACKGROUND.

2. EL CRONISTA OF MAY 6 REPORTED THAT AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM GUATEMALA PAID A COURTESY CALL ON CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR MAY5. THE DELEGATION WAS COMPOSED OF: ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES, FONMIN; GENERAL FAUSTE DAVID RUBIO, MINDEF; EDUARDO PALOMA ESCOBAR, MINECON; AND SEVERAL OTHERS. EL CRONISTA QUOTES MOLINA AS SAYING THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN COSTA RICA AT A STILL UNDERTIMED DATE. MOLINA ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GUATEMALA DID NOT LIKE TO SEE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN SISTER REPUBLICS AND SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD SERVE AS A BRIDGE TO HELP HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. GENERAL FAUSTO DAVID RUBIO ADMITTED THAT THE GOG HAD BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THE EVENTS IN HONDURAS BUT THAT ALL DOUBTS WERE DISSIPATED WHEN A DELEGATION LED BY FONMIN GALVEZ WENT TO GUATEMALA TO EXPLAIN THAT THE GOH HAD MERELY BEEN RESTRUCTURED. THE GOG DELEGATION REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO GUATEMALA MAY 5 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ITS VISIT. LA PRENSA OF MAY 6 REPORTED THAT CARLOS DUBON, NICARAGUAN MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY, MADE A COURTESY CALL ON MELGAR MAY 5. THE VISIT WAS TO RECIPROCATATE FOR A VISIT TO NICARAGUA BY THE HONDURAN DELEGATION LED BY FONMIN GALVEZ. DUBON REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WOULD BE HELD WITHIN 20 DAYS.

3. EL CRONISTA, UNDER THE HEADLINE, "TOTAL , NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING," PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF A DECLARATION BY THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION DATED MAY 4 IN ZURICH, SWITZERLAND. THE DECLARATION SAYS THAT THE COMMISSION SPOKE WITH MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND RECEIVED "ABUNDANT" INFORMATION. TO CONFIRM THAT INFORMATION IT WAS NECESSARY TO GO TO SWITZERLAND WHERE THE COMMISSION HAS RECEIVED THE COOPERATION OF SWISS OFFICIALS TO THE LIMIT OF SWISS LAW. WHEN THE COMMISSION RETURNS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HONDURAS A FULL REPORT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

4. IN AN EDITORIAL IN ITS MAY 6 EDITION, CONSERVATIVE LA PRENSA COMMENTED THAT THE EUROPEAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE GOH INVESTIGATION COMMISSION HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING REQUESTED INFORMATION IN SWITZERLAND. LA PRENSA NOTED THAT NO COUNTRY HAS EVER BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING INFORMATION FROM THE SWISS BANKING AUTHORITIES. THEREFORE, SINCE LA PRENSA AND THE PUBLIC ANTICIPATED THIS FAILURE, THE REASONS FOR THE COMMISSIONS'S TRIP TO EUROPE MUST BE QUESTIONED. LA PRENSA SAID THAT THE HONDURAN PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE FAITH IN THE COMMISSION AND WARNED

THAT IN THE FINAL REPORT, HALF TRUTHS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. THE PAPER NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD TAKE CARE IN ITS REPORT NOT TO DUPLICATE THE ACTIONS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION WHICH HAD ISSUED A LENGTHY DOCUMENT SAYING NOTHING.

5.
IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL OF MAY 6 LA PRENSA COMMENTED THAT ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT MELGAR MEANT WHAT HE SAID WHEN HE PROMISED HONESTY IN GOVERNMENT. THE PAPER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE GOH'S FUTURE ACTIONS WOULD SUPPORT THAT JUDGEMENT.

6. IN A RADIO INTERVIEW MAY 6, FONMIN VIEGILIO GALVEZ SAID THAT THE GOH WILL MAINTAIN THE SAME POLICY ON THE CUBA SANCTIONS THAT IT HAD AT THE QUITO OAS MEETING, I.E., THAT HONDURAS WOULD VOTE TO SUSPEND SANCTIONS BUT WOULD ABIDE BY THE TWO-THIRDS RULE.

7. THE CASE OF THE CUBAN EXILE ADVISOR TO LA PRENSA, ROLANDO MERUELO, WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED BY THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT DECEMBER 6, 1974 (REF B), HAS ONCE AGAIN HIT THE FRONT PAGES. APPARENTLY ENCOURAGED BY THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT THE INTERAMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY (SIP) CABLED MELGAR ON APRIL 30 REQUESTING THAT THE GOH PERMIT MERUELO TO RESUME HIS EMPLOYMENT. APPARENTLY, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, MELGAR DID NOT REPLY TO THE CABTRO. THE EMBASSY REGARDS PERMISSION FOR MERUELO TO RETURN AS BEING UNLIKELY.

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8. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT RECENT PRO-LOPEZ, ANTI-UB COMMENTARY IS NOT ACCIDENTAL. GENERAL LOPEZ IS REPORTEDLY FINANCING A CAMPAIGN IN THE HOPES OF BOLSTERING HIS PRESENT POSITION.
SANCHEZ

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